



JPW

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masahiko KIMBARA et al.

Group Art Unit: 3728

Application No.: 10/806,163

Examiner: S. REYNOLDS

Filed: March 23, 2004

Docket No.: 119172

For: GAS STORAGE TANK AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 27, 2007 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-6 and 15, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LES/ccs

Date: March 16, 2007

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